

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

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R 041715Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2990

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

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ROME FOR ILLING

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BEGINS WORK; MORE ON REPUBLICA/RADIO
RENASCENCA

REF: LISBON 1210

SUMMARY: HEATED DEBATE OVER PROCEDURES FOR SEATING DELEGATES
DOMINATED FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY JUNE 3.
SOCIALIST-LED MAJORITY EASILY DEFEATED COMMUNIST-BACKED
EFFORT TO DIVERT ASSEMBLY FROM ITS PRINCIPAL TASK. "REPUBLICA"
DISPUTE APPEARS HEADED FOR SETTLEMENT, WITH GOP
HAVING PROMISED PS THAT REPUBLICA WOULD OPEN BY END OF THE WEEK.
LINGERING RADIO RENASCENCA DISPUTE, CAUGHT UP IN WAKE LEFT
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BY REPUBLICA ISSUE, MAY BE HEADING FOR SHOWDOWN. END SUMMARY

1. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY BEGINS WORKS: FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF ASSEMBLY JUNE 3 CONSUMED BY HEATED DEBATE OVER SEATING OF DELEGATES. MARXIST-LENINIST POPULAR DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDP) PROPOSED THAT CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF EQUAL NUMBERS FROM EACH PARTY, SCRUTINIZE REVOLUTIONARY CREDENTIALS OF ALL DELEGATES PRIOR TO THEIR SEATING. PROPOSAL WAS EAGERLY SUPPORTED BY COMMUNISTS (PCP). UDP SPOKESMAN SINGLED OUT JOAO MOTA AMARAL, MODERATE POPULAR DEMOCRAT (PPD) FROM AZORES, AND GENERAL GALVAO DE MELO, CONSERVATIVE ELECTED ON CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (CDS) SLATE, AMONG THOSE WITH ALLEGED LINKS TO PAST REGIME. SOCIALISTS, PPD, AND CDS DELEGATES EASILY DEFEATED EFFORT, AS WELL AS RELATED PC PROPOSAL TO DELAY REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE, SELECTED ON BASIS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, WILL REPORT ITS FINDING AT JUNE 4 SESSION.

(COMMENT: UDP/PCP EFFORT WAS TRANSPARENT ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ASSEMBLY FROM ITS PRINCIPAL TASK. COMMUNISTS AND THEIR PARLIAMENTARY ALLIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO SIDETRACK AND DISCREDIT ASSEMBLY. INITIAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE AND OUR TALKS WITH SOCIALISTS AND OTHERS INDICATE THAT MODERATES ARE ALERT TO COMMUNIST TACTIC AND SENSITIVE TO NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO TASK FOR WHICH THEY ELECTED.)

2. MORE ON "REPUBLICA": WITH REPUBLICA CASE CONTINUING TO GENERATE EMBARRASSING COMMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD, GOP APPEARS ANXIOUS TO FIND EARLY SOLUTION. LISBON PRESS NOTED REFERENCE TO REPUBLICA CASE AT 28TH CONGRESS IN HAMBURG OF INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER EDITORS FEDERATION, WHILE BACK IN LISBON DEPOSED EDITOR RAUL REGO AND ASSOCIATES SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING TOGETHER AND DISTRIBUTING SECOND EDITION OF SPECIALLY OR EATED "REPUBLICA CASE NEWSPAPER" REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL TOLD SOARES LAST WEEK WHEN HE WAS NEGOTIATING AN END TO PS BOYCOTT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT REPUBLICA WOULD BE OPENED BY END OF THIS WEEK.

3. RADIO RENASCENCA: WITHIN OVERALL CONTEXT SET BY REPUBLICA ISSUE, LINGERING DISPUTE AT CATHOLIC CHURCH'S RADIO RENASCENCA (RR) MAY ALSO BE MOVING TOWARD SHOWDOWN (REFTEL). GOP HAS RECEIVED PROTESTS FROM HOLY SEE AND, WITHIN PAST WEEK, BELATED PROTEST FROM INTERNATIONAL PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTITUTE CALLING ON GOP TO DEFEND CHURCH'S RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION IN RUNNING STATION. DISSIDENT RR WORKERS WHO CALLED STRIKE AGAINST HIERARCHY'S MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN MID-FEBRUARY, ON MAY 27 TURNED ON GOP-NAMED "MIXED COMMISSION" RUNNING STATION AND OCCUPIED LISBON TRANSMITTING FACILITIES, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY SILENCING THEM.

4. COMMENT: WHILE RR DISPUTE MAY CONTINUE TO EVADE SOLUTION

FOR MANY MORE WEEKS, REPUBLICA PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE HAVING
AN IMPACT THERE. PATTERN SET BY RESOLUTION OF REPUBLICA ISSUE
MAY ALSO DETERMINE RESOLUTION TO BE FOUND FOR RADIO RENASCENCA.
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